

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-8, 10 and 11 are pending. By this Amendment, independent claims 1, 8 and 10 are amended to improve the readability and clarity of the claims. No new matter is added by the above amendments.

Please note that Applicants requested suspension of prosecution for up to three months in the RCE filed herewith. Applicants will be filing a Supplemental Amendment to add claims in the near future. The Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney if, for some reason, the Supplemental Amendment is not present in the PTO image file wrapper when the Examiner takes up this application for action on this Amendment.

I. Information Disclosure Statement.

The Examiner is requested to consider the information identified in the attached Information Disclosure Statement.

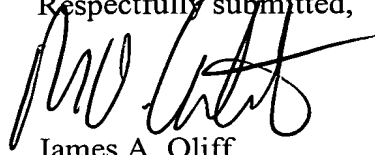
II. All Pending Claims Are Patentable.

In response to a personal interview in which Examiner Lett agreed to withdraw the rejections made in the December 27, 2007 Final Rejection, Applicants filed a Request for Reconsideration on March 27, 2008. After three months, the Patent Office has yet to act on the March 27 Request for Reconsideration. However, in telephone conferences with Applicants' representative, Examiner Lett indicated that he likely would issue an Advisory Action maintaining the rejection and also indicating that the first clause of independent claim 1 (and the similar clauses in independent claims 8 and 10) are unclear. Thus, independent claims 1, 8 and 10 are amended as set forth above to clarify the claims.

Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are patentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,727,135 (Webb et al.) for the reasons set forth in the March 27 Request for Reconsideration. The claims having been further clarified by this Amendment, the patentable differences between Applicants' claims and Webb et al. are further clarified.

After Applicants file Applicants' Supplemental Amendment, reconsideration and allowance of this application will be earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Request for Continued Examination
Information Disclosure Statement
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: June 27, 2008

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